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THE GULL



Golden Gate Audubon Society

Berkeley, California

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TREASURERS OF THE GREENBELT

The Bay Area—Keep it Green

Join us for our January program in San Francisco when the Greenbelt Alliance will present their award winning film, *Treasure of the Greenbelt*. This cinematic celebration of the countryside in the San Francisco Bay Region will begin at **7:30 p.m. Thursday, January 10th, 1991** at the Josephine Randall Museum located at 199 Museum Way in **San Francisco** (see map on p. 12).

The Greenbelt Alliance is working to broaden public support for protection of the Bay Area's Greenbelt—3.7 million acres of parks and watersheds, farms and ranches, forests and vineyards. By encouraging each city and county to adopt its own local greenbelt and to set firm boundaries around towns and cities, the Greenbelt Campaign is working to protect these treasures for future generations.

The film will introduce you to some of these treasures in the nine Bay Area counties . . . the Mission Blue Butterfly, the crashing Tule Elk of Point Reyes, and the cowboy working cattle one hour from downtown San Francisco.

The Golden Gate Chapter is one of the Greenbelt's endorsers. Find out what this worthwhile project has accomplished so far—how you may become involved—or just come to enjoy a wonderful film. The Greenbelt—Don't leave your city without it!

—JOELLA BUFFA
Program Chairman

A BOLD NEW PROPOSAL

In a characteristically innovative proposal, Arthur Feinstein has gained GGAS board support, and has appealed to leaders of all California chapters of the National Audubon Society for support, for a full-time Sacramento lobbyist for California Audubon interests.

His letter notes that it has been a frustrating year interacting with the California legislature and the future looks grim. Development, industry and agriculture lobbyists who felt they could count on a Deukmejian veto knew they didn't have to fight so hard. If a "bad" bill, from their point of view, was passed they could
(continued on page 10)

FEBRUARY GGAS PELAGIC TRIP

See page 6 for details.

FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

Wednesday, Jan. 9—Mini-trip to Arrowhead Marsh.

Saturday, Jan. 12—Lodi, Woodbridge Rd. and Staten Island. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot of Rocky's Restaurant at the intersection of I-5 and State Hwy. 12. From the Bay Area take 580 and continue east beyond Tracy to I-5, go north about 14 miles beyond Stockton to the intersection of Hwy. 12 (an alternate route would be to take Hwy. 12 out of Fairfield and Rio Vista to I-5). We will caravan to Lodi Sewage Ponds for rare shore birds, then to Woodbridge Rd. for cranes and to Staten Island for waterfowl. Dress warmly and be prepared for rain. Bring lunch. Leader: David Yee (209) 951-1526.

Saturday, Jan. 12—Dillon Beach. For details on the above, see *The GULL* for December.

Saturday, Jan. 19—Carrizo Plain. Meet in the town of Cholame (on Hwy. 46 midway between Kettleman City on I-5 and Paso Robles on Hwy. 101. Lodging is available in both cities.) From the Bay Area drive south on I-5 to Kettleman City, then west for 28 miles on Hwy. 41 to the intersection of Hwy. 46. Continue west on 46 to Chlame. Or, from the Bay Area drive south on Hwy. 101 to Paso Robles, then east for 24 miles on Hwy. 46 to Cholame. Driving time is four and one-half to five hours, so we suggest you plan to arrive Friday evening to be ready for a full day of birding on Saturday. (Fill your gas tank before leaving Kettleman City or Paso Robles.)

We will caravan from Cholame to Carrizo Plain. This area is excellent for a wide variety of raptors. Mountain Plovers, Longspurs, and Sandhill Cranes are usually seen. Not only will we see birds, but we will also learn about the geology of the area from Eben McMillan, the leader, and a lifelong resident rancher. The San Andreas Fault is very much in evidence and is an outstanding feature here. Much of the area has been purchased by the Nature Conservancy to establish a refuge.

This trip is limited to 20 participants, and will be cancelled if there is bad weather or no relief from the drought. For reservations, trip confirmation, and notice of meeting time call Russ Wilson (Field Trips Committee Chmn.) 524-2399. Bring a lunch, liquids, warm clothes, and perhaps a scope. Leader: Eben McMillan (✓)

Saturday, Jan. 19—Panoche Valley. Meet at 8 a.m. at the intersection of Hwy. 25 and J-1 in Paicines, 12.5 miles south of Hollister. From there we will drive east to I-5 south of Los Banos. In the past we have seen Mountain Plover, Mountain Bluebird, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Vesper Sparrow and Lewis' Woodpecker.

Considering the distance involved in this trip, be sure to fill your gas tank before leaving Hollister, and carpool from the Bay Area if possible. Bring lunch and warm clothes. (Many participants stay over in Los Banos and join the Sunday field trip.) Leader: Chris Carpenter (268-7509). (✓)

Sunday, Jan. 20—Los Banos State Refuge. Meet at 8 a.m. at the refuge

headquarters located three miles north of Los Banos on Henry Miller Rd. We will look for White-faced Ibis, Sandhill Cranes, Bald Eagles, and assorted waterfowl.

Allow two and one-half to three hours driving time from the Bay Area. Considering the distance involved in this trip, be sure to fill your gas tank before starting, and carpool if possible. Bring lunch and warm clothes. Leaders: Peter and Dolores White (229-1714). \$ (✓)

Sunday, Jan. 20—Grizzley and Joice Islands Wildlife Area. Take I-80 east to Fairfield, and exit on West Texas St. Continue for about one-half mile to the City Park, and meet at the parking lot near the entrance at 8:30 a.m. We will caravan from there to the refuge. We should see a variety of waterfowl, shorebirds, and marshbirds. Bring lunch and scopes. Leader: Peter Allen (892-8063). \$ (✓)

Saturday, Jan. 26—Upper San Leandro Reservoir, Moraga. Meet at 8 a.m. in the Valle Vista Staging Area parking lot for a one-half day trip. Take Hwy. 24 to Orinda and exit on Moraga Hwy. Continue approx. four miles to Canyon Rd. Turn right at traffic signal and continue 1.2 miles to Valle Vista Staging Area on left. Grassy hills, pines, oaks and open water provide varied habitats for landbirds and wintering waterfowl. Wood Duck sightings are possible. Leader: David George (339-0765) (✓)

Saturday, Feb. 2—Sacramento Wildlife Refuge. Meet at 9 a.m. in the Visitors' Center parking lot. Allow two to two and one-half hours driving time from the Bay Area. Drive east on I-80 to Vacaville, then north on I-505 to I-5. Continue 18 miles beyond Williams to Norman Rd. and follow signs to Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Visitor's center. We will be looking for wintering waterfowl, including Snow Geese, White-fronted Geese, and Tundra Swans. Bring lunch and a scope if you have one.

(Some participants may choose to stay over a night (Gum Willows Motel-6) and explore nearby Gray Lodge on their own on Sunday.) Leader: Steve Margolin (547-5119) (✓)

Saturday, Feb. 9—Lake Merced, San Francisco. Meet at 9 a.m. at the south end of Sunset Blvd. in the Lake Merced Circle. (Muni bus service available.) This is a good time to see wintering grebs and ducks. Lunch is optional for this half-day trip. Leader: Naomi Sveningsen (584-6233)

Sunday, Feb. 10—Lake Merritt, Oakland. Meet at 9 a.m. at Grand Ave. and El Embarcadero by the Greek Colonnade. Bring binoculars, scope, and field guide if you have them. This is an excellent opportunity to observe wintering ducks and grebes at close range and to study their field identification. This trip is recommended for beginners and is wheelchair accessible. Trip ends at noon. There is a restaurant at the lake for brunch after birding. Rain cancels trip. Leader: Joan Zawaski (433-1700 days; 530-2427 eve.) (✓)

Wednesday, Feb. 13—Mini-trip to Lafayette Reservoir. Take Hwy. 24 beyond Orinda to the Acalanes exit, continue $\frac{3}{4}$ mile on Mt. Diablo Blvd. and follow the sign on the right to the reservoir. Meet at 9 a.m. in the parking lot. (There is a \$1.00 fee for day parking.) We will see song and winter birds. Lunch optional. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (351-9301) and Jean-Marie Spoelman. \$ (✓)

Trips marked with a \$ go to parks or other sites which require an entrance fee.

Carpooling arrangements will be attempted for trips marked (✓).

Problems: If you need a ride or can take a passenger, or if you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, call Russ Wilson, Field Trips Committee Chmn. (524-2399).

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

WATCH FOR BANDED HERONS!

In July 1990, biologists with GGNRA and SFBBO placed color-bands on 26 fledgling Black-crowned Night-Herons at the Alcatraz Island colony. The banding study is part of a broad monitoring effort for this colony; but it is specifically to find the young herons' feeding sites as well as to learn their wintering and eventual breeding grounds.

The herons will be in the brown streaky plumage of the first-year birds. There will be a blue and white band on the right leg and a traditional aluminum band on the left leg. If you see such a Black-crowned Night-Heron, please report location, date and circumstances to Allen Fish, (415) 331-0730. Thanks for your help.

NOVEMBER OBSERVATIONS

"A long dry season" is a well-used metaphor, but it's all-too-literally true as brief rain flurries do little to relieve our parched hillsides. California gold has become dustbowl brown and it's painful to see. It will be interesting to learn Christmas Count results—are there fewer birds around or have they merely redistributed themselves to best take advantage of declining water supplies?

One bright spot in this bleak landscape is the arrival, finally, of Rich Stallcup's *Ocean Birds of the Nearshore Pacific*. Like Rich himself it's full of good humor and invaluable information: species accounts of seabirds and marine mammals, turtles and selected other vertebrates are accompanied by well-reproduced black and white photos; and an introductory section contains oceans of information about the Pacific; the how-to's and wherefore's of pelagic trips; and observation strategies for those who would rather

face a firing squad than find themselves on the open ocean. The book is not intended to be used only by those who go to sea—not quite the present, perhaps, for your high-stepping grandmother from Sioux City, but the species accounts are so fact-packed and readable that the book is of interest and value to any committed bird-watcher. Presently it is available only* from the Point Reyes Bird Observatory and a few other selected vendors such as ABA Sales; the book deserves to have wider distribution—finding it shouldn't have to be a treasure hunt.

* * * * *

As the fall seabird season winds down, there is no reason to suppose the excitement must die also. A long (100 miles out) pelagic trip on the 17th found two **Stejneger's Petrels** 53 miles SW of SE Farallon—this was 11 years to the day of the first, and until now only, California record for the bird seen then on a trip to the Davidson Seamount (SFB,KH). The current trip also had a **Flesh-footed Shearwater**, four **Short-tailed Shearwaters**, one to two **Fork-tailed Storm-petrels**, a 1st-year **Glaucous Gull**, three **Black-legged Kittiwakes** and three **South Polar Skuas** (SFB,KH). **Laysan Albatrosses** were reported from Cape Mendocino (BSt) and **Cordell Bank** (ShH) on the 17th and 18th.

It's been a heron kind of a month: **American Bittern** at the Bolinas Sewer Ponds on the 2nd (KH)—one there at the time the **Garganey** was first found last spring caused a stir; they're uncommon in West Marin, but perhaps like the **Garganey** it's becoming a trend. One, maybe more, **Least Bittern** at Sacramento NWR (DES, MiF). The **Little Blue Heron/Snowy Egret** hybrid is still at Charleston Slough (it goes back to Oct., 1989) (SGI). **Cattle Egrets**

**Editor's Note: Good news! GGAS will have copies. Phone to reserve yours.*

are back for the winter—the one at Lake Merritt joins the pigeons for hand-outs (SGL, STe, AD); two flyovers at Crystal Springs on the 17th (PJM); one in Mountain View on the 19th (PJM); and three in a cow pasture (fortunately, some still know their place) in Inverness (LP). The Sebastopol **Wood Stork** is balm to the heart of any birder who has ever hiked miles, crawled through choking underbrush and forded raging streams—standing at the tip-top of a very tall tree, it was visible from the parking lot, but for those willing to walk the extra 100 feet, strategically-placed picnic tables afforded a better and more comfortable view (mob). Three hundred White-faced Ibises were seen in Colusa County on the 24th (DES).

Early in the month there was a surge of swans and geese near the coast with twenty Snow, thirteen Ross', two Greater White-fronted, and six Canada Geese even making it to SE Farallon (PP fide KH). Ducks are back, with Eurasian Wigeons, Barrow's Goldeneyes and Hooded Mergansers being reported in good numbers. The **Garganey** at Bolinas Sewer Ponds was last reported on the 11th (mob); a Tufted Duck provided a brief look at Rodeo Lagoon on the 16th (GHg); four Harlequin Ducks were at Ano Nuevo around the 4th (GJS fide PJM); and Oldsquaws were reported from Bolinas Lagoon (DSi), Clifton Court Forebay (STe) and Coyote Point (DFi).

Broadwinged Hawk #160 passed Hawk Hill on the 12th (CLF). Of some interest is the Swainson's Hawk news: extreme-long-distance migrants, they winter in the pampas of Argentina and vacate California by mid to late September. Anyone claiming to see one in the late fall or winter draws derisive snickers of disbelief. Well, this year a Swainson's Hawk passed Hawk Hill on the 7th (CLF); another was seen in the Delta a little later (DGY fide MiF, MiF); and

then a flock of twenty-six, all dark-phase, was found in San Joaquin County at the end of the month (DGY fide RS). Another result of the drought? Or are there factors involved which we haven't yet divined?

Mountain Plovers put in a couple of appearances at Pt. Reyes—one on the 25th (RS) and another on the 28th and 29th (RS,KH). A sharp-tailed Sandpiper was seen from a kayak at Elkhorn Slough on the 4th (DWm); and the Rock Sandpiper returned to Pebble Beach, San Mateo County, on the 22nd (AME, AWa). Red Phalaropes were reported close to shore and even inside the Bay early to mid-month.

The Lewis' Woodpecker continued to be seen near the Pt. Reyes Visitors' Center thru the 6th (FGB); the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker remained at Pine Gulch Creek (mob); another was seen in San Jose on the 12th (MNo); and the Red-naped Sapsucker was in Inverness until the 3rd (LL). A female Williamson's Sapsucker, a mountain (but not southern Coast Range) species was observed on San Benito Mt. from the 3rd to the 11th (DSg). An **Eastern Phoebe** in Fresno on the 24th was the first in N. Calif. in quite a while (KH).

A Sage Thrasher in Redwood City on the 17th was a bit out of its element (DKe); the Bendire's Thrasher remained in Lodi (mob). A **Wagtail** at Sunset State Beach on the 7th and 8th was first reported as a Yellow, but that was revised to White/Black-backed with no final determination—it's thought to be the same bird seen there last year when it was equally definitively identified (RMrr, SA, CaL). A Northern Shrike near Abbott's Lagoon was seen only on the 23rd (MBu).

There was a small flurry of late warblers: Tennessee (DKe), Nashville (DKe), and Black-and-white (RSTh) in Pescadero; Black-throated Blue in SF (PJM, AWa); Black-throated Gray at the

Carmel River (JE) and Sebastopol (BDP); Palm at Alviso (MDa); American Redstart (mob) and MacGillivray's (ASH) in GG Park; and Northern Waterthrush at Bodega Bay (PtW, AC). A Summer Tanager showed up at the Carmel River from the 13th to the 15th (JE); and last year's returned to Pine Lake Park in SF on the 23rd (DPM). Interesting sparrows included an American Tree Sparrow on SE Farallon on the 2nd (fide KH); a Clay-colored Sparrow in Half Moon Bay on the 4th (RSTh); and Sharp-tailed Sparrows at Palo Alto Baylands (up to two) (KGH, AlW, BWy, SSc) and Pine Gulch Creek (THK, JMS). Red Crossbills and Evening Grosbeaks were seen in good numbers. *An Apology:* my attention to spelling varies from fussily pedantic to execrably lax and I'm afraid that all my years of Latin do not help much with Spanish. So now I know the plural of Farallon is Farallones.

OBSERVERS: Steve Allison, Stephen F. Bailey, Michael Burns, Anthony Cermak, Maryann Danielson, Ann Dewart, Jimm Edgar, Alan M. Eisner, Carter L. Faust, Mike Feighner, Dan Fitzsimmons, Kathy Francone, Steve Glover, Keith Hansen, Shawn Hayes, Kevin G. Hintsa, Alan S. Hopkins, George Hugenberg, Dan Keller, Ted Koundakjian, Leslie Lieurance, Calvin Lou, Robert Merrill, Peter J. Metropulos, Dan P. Murphy, Mary Nordstrom, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Larry Parmeter, Peter Pyle, Steve Schafer, Donald E. Schmoldt, Dianne Sierra (DSi), Dan Singer (DSg), Jean-Marie Spoelman, Rich Stallcup, Gary J. Strachan, Bill Strayley, Scott Terrill, Alan Walter, Adrian Wander, Peter White, David Wimpfheimer, Betty Wyatt, David G. Yee.

—ANN DEWART

MONTEREY BAY PELAGIC TRIP

The Golden Gate Audubon Society will sponsor a boat trip on Sunday, February

10 to view seabirds and marine mammals. We plan a 7:30 a.m. departure from Monterey Harbor. Past trips have produced sightings of albatrosses, shearwaters, jaegers, alcids, dolphins, whales and other species not usually seen from land.

Reservations may be made by sending \$26 per person to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite G, Berkeley, California 94702. Make checks payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society and enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. Details on when and where to meet will be mailed with confirmation notices.

For more information call GGAS office at 843-2222.

EASTERN SIERRA STREAMS

The Bishop office of the Bureau of Land Management has found ten Eastern Sierra streams in Mono and Inyo Counties to be eligible for National Wild and Scenic River status. The eligibility finding is part of the draft Bishop Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

The eligible streams include Virginia, Green, Dog, Rough, Atastra, Hot and Rock Creeks in Mono Co. and Fish Slough, Independence and George Creeks in Inyo Co. They encompass a wide range of remarkable resources including scenic, recreational, fishery, wildlife, cultural, historical, geologic and ecological. These and 15 other streams under study by Inyo National Forest, are some of the last remaining free flowing rivers in a region that has been dramatically dewatered by development projects which transport water and energy to Southern California's metropolitan area. According to the Forest Service, only 12% of the stream miles in this region remain undiverted and natural.

The eligibility finding is the first step toward permanent protection. The next

step is for BLM to study their suitability for designation and make a recommendation to Congress.

WHAT TO DO

Write a letter to Mike Ferguson, BLM Bishop Area Manager, 787 N. Main St., Suite P, Bishop, CA 93514. Thank BLM for its excellent Wild and Scenic eligibility study and urge them to:

- Recommend all ten streams for Wild and Scenic status and adopt interim management to protect their values until Congress can act.
- Acquire land from willing sellers to increase public ownership of eligible stream segments.
- Adopt Alternative 3, the most environmentally protective management alternative for the Bishop resource area.

Note that the letter must be posted in time to be received by Jan. 17, 1991. Please send copies of your letter to your Representative in Congress and to our Senators. House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515, Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510. For more information call Steve Evans at (916) 442-3155.

RUDE INTERRUPTION

There you sit on a January evening, hot cup of herbal tea in hand, rabbit curled up at your feet, perusing *The GULL*, your favorite Bay Area periodical. And what rudely intrudes upon your satisfied sipping of Feinstein's "Conservation Notes", Dewart's "Observations" and Murphy's "News from the Ranch"?

BIRDATHON 1991? No, please, it's too early. We've barely digested the figgy pudding.

The answer, of course, is that it is never too early for Birdathon 1991, our most important fundraiser for special programs. The next issue of your favorite Bay Area periodical will have all the details. Here is what you need to know now:

- The date is April 20, 1991. Mark your calendar.
- We need your help.

To offer your assistance, or for more information, call 434-4262, ext. 6006 and leave a message for the Birdathon Coordinator:

—STEVE MARGOLIN

BACK YARD BIRDER

Of the approximately 645 species of birds which breed in North America, about 80% migrate. Some birds fly thousands of miles, most of them to escape harsh climatic conditions which reduce or curtail food supplies. Birds which summer at high elevations move down to the foothills or plains, travelling only a few thousand feet but responding to the same needs as long-distance latitudinal migrants. In the Bay Area we see both kinds of travellers. Our winter residents herald the end of Indian summer and the beginning of our (hopefully) rainy season.

The Golden-crowned Sparrow appears early—in October—and stays with us as late as May. His mournful, "Oh, dear me!" sung in descending notes becomes common background music.

Some of our Fox Sparrows are regular residents but others spend just winters here. "Mine" are very dark brown, the "race" found in the Pacific Northwest. Notice this bird's heavy beak and his whitish breast which is streaked with brown. He is most often seen hopping up and down in leaves of dirt, stirring up a meal. He is often confused with another winter bird, the Hermit Thrush. This handsome fellow has a slimmer shape, longer legs, his breast is spotted rather than streaked and his tail is a rusty red. He nervously cocks his tail then drops it slowly.

A grating, buzzy alarm note tells me the Ruby-crowned Kinglet is back in my yard. He is seldom still as he flits from branch to branch, sometimes hovering while plucking insects from the leaves. Forget seeing his ruby crown unless you're looking down on him—or unless

another male is near. His cousin, the Golden-crowned Kinglet, is not as abundant in my area, but some years we will have small flocks of them in conifers. Listen for a high-pitched *zee, zee, zee* similar to the Creeper's *scree* (just one note). You can't miss the beautiful yellow or orangish crown bordered by black lines.

Winter is the only time I get to see the Red-breasted Nuthatch, announcing his presence by tooting his little tin horn as he works his way down the tree trunk.

Despite our relatively mild winters we have cold spells and storms. So how do warm-blooded birds deal with the cold? Mammals and birds produce heat by transforming food and stored fats into energy. Keeping warm depends upon taking in enough food. Here's where feeders may make a difference. Birds must eat almost constantly to produce as much heat as they lose.

Good insulation is a key to staying warm. Several types of body feathers are layered and overlapped so they trap layers of air next to the body and also slow the loss of body heat to the outside. Since these feathers are controlled by muscles, they can be raised to increase the air space and amount of insulation. Haven't you noticed birds perched all fluffed up when it's cold? This is similar to our shivering, which produces heat from muscle activity. In very cold areas birds

literally shiver all winter long to keep warm. Birds found in the extreme north have exceptionally deep, thick coverings of feathers, often covering their legs and feet. They will huddle together in a communal roost or will sleep in caves or tree cavities—anything to keep warm. Ptarmigans even burrow into the snow!

The most extreme measure used to conserve energy is torpidity. Three closely-related families (the hummingbirds, swifts and nightjars) all use this strategy in cold weather or when under stress. Once an Anna's Hummingbird was trapped in our garage and when we caught him in a butterfly net, he went limp—struggling would have injured him—and flew away after a few moment's recovery. During torpidity the body temperature is reduced, breathing and the heartbeat become negligible and the birds can be handled without disturbing them. Because of hummers' small size and very high metabolic rate, this is the only way to sustain themselves overnight. They reduce energy requirements at night and return to normal at daylight. In time of food scarcity or during extreme cold, swifts practice torpidity. And Poor-wills can remain torpid for 3 months!

Let's hope for storms to ease the drought and keep our feeders full for our winter visitors.

—MEG PAULETICH



POINT PINOLE SHORELINE

Looking for a new place to focus your binoculars? Point Pinole Regional Shoreline offers peaceful seclusion, beautiful Bay vistas, sparse crowds and myriad birds in diverse habitats. Located fifteen minutes north of Berkeley, just west of Hilltop Mall in Richmond, Point Pinole boasts 5.5 miles of San Pablo Bay waterfront with 2,147 acres of mudflats, salt marshes, rolling grasslands, eucalyptus forests and even a freshwater pond (currently under restoration and waiting for rain). Easy trails crisscross the park.

Over 140 winged species have been identified here with new additions flying in constantly. A Golden Gate Audubon Society walk on 9/16/90 tallied 43 species including a Black-and-white Warbler and a Long-tailed Jaeger! Birders regularly view numerous raptors including Osprey, which have attempted nesting in the park.

FRITZ & PHOEBE

From time to time *The GULL* has brought you cartoons by Phil Frank and Charles Schultz of the *San Francisco Chronicle* and Scott Willis of the *San Jose Mercury News*. To this distinguished company we now bring our own talented Alan Hopkins. WOW!



Park rangers have constructed an Osprey nesting platform in the hopes that these breeding attempts will come to fruition. The US Fish and Wildlife Service uses Point Pinole as a base station for its duck census and research, as does Point Reyes Bird Observatory for winter shorebird counts.

Point Pinole staff and East Bay Regional Park District invite all to become involved with birds and birding in the park. Park patrons have been invaluable in the compilation and planned printing of a bird checklist. Any data gathered from casual birding, as well as organized programs greatly assist management efforts aimed at protecting this avian resource.

Point Pinole is open every day from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. The Parking lot is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. through the winter. Parking fees are \$2 per vehicle (\$1 per dog) on weekends and holidays. There is no parking fee during the week. A shuttle service from the entrance to the north end of the park departs every hour on the half-hour, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and returns quarter past the hour from 9:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. The round trip fare is \$.50 per adult.

How to Get There

From I-80, take the Hilltop Drive exit west. Follow Hilltop Drive to San Pablo



Ave. Turn right on San Pablo and left at the second light, Atlas Rd. Follow Atlas for one and a half miles, across the railroad tracks. Pass the buildings on your right and turn right (just past a eucalyptus grove) into Point Pinole Regional Shoreline. For information call 237-6896. (An August wildfire has left sections of the park closed or hazardous. Please comply with access limitations.)

—MICHAEL J. MORAN

SPRING BIRDING CLASSES IN SAN FRANCISCO

Evening bird classes taught by Joe Morlan will be starting Jan. 22, 23 and 24. All classes meet 7–9:30 p.m. in room 222, Marina Middle School, 3500 Fillmore at Bay St. Free parking is in the school lot off Bay St. on the east side of the building.

The instructor is co-author of *Birds of California* and compiler of the recorded “Northern California Rare Bird Alert” sponsored by the Golden Gate Audubon Society. Slides illustrate all classes and the text for all classes is *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* by the National Geographic Society.

Field Ornithology I meets on Tuesdays. It is an introduction to birds and birding, combining basic field skills with the study of bird ecology, biology and behavior. Part A starts Jan. 22 and ends Mar. 12. Part B starts April 2 and ends May 28.

Field Ornithology II meets on Wednesdays. It is a continuing in-depth study of the identification and status of North American landbirds, including crows, chickadees, nuthatches, wrens, thrushes and thrashers. Part A starts Jan. 23 and ends Mar. 13. Part B starts April 3 and ends May 22.

Field Ornithology III meets on Thursdays. It is a continuing study of waterbirds including ducks, rails and shorebirds. Part A starts Jan. 24 and ends

Mar. 14. Part B starts April 4 and ends May 23.

These classes are endorsed by the GGAS. Optional field trips on weekends may be arranged by the instructor. Please bring binoculars and field guides to class if you have them.

Fees are \$50 for Part A (eight week) courses and \$45 for Part B (seven week) courses. Students need not take Part A to enroll in Part B classes. Pre-registration is recommended. For information call the San Francisco Community College, Community Services Office at 776-8247.

BOLD IDEA *(continued from pg. 1)*

stop it at the Governor's desk. With a less doctrinaire incumbent in the Governor's office, the lobbying efforts with the legislators will intensify. Further, with Prop. 140 as law, legislators will increase in significance and influence in the legislative process. Legislators will have to turn to other resources to be informed on many of the issues before them. Arthur's appeal is for a full time lobbyist in Sacramento who works only on Audubon issues in the state legislature.

At this stage, his request to the chapter leaders is for an indication of interest, and for their suggestions and help in planning how to organize and develop the position. The GGAS board at its October meeting expressed enthusiastic support for this idea, and for his reaching out to all the other chapters of Audubon.

Excerpts from his letter follow:

The 1990's are being called the decade of the environment. Nobody's saying whether that means it's going to be a good decade or a bad one—just that this is the time when our world's environmental future will be decided.

If your experiences have been similar to those of us in the Bay Area, you've been getting very mixed signals as to the outcome. Over the last year we've seen some fairly good air quality decisions, some very questionable wetland decisions, some very scary

Endangered Species decisions and either bad decisions or no decisions at all on forestry, growth, land use and many other issues.

What has impressed us most is how abysmally our state government is dealing with our problems. Yet, in the coming years the state will play an ever increasing role in environmental decisions in all these areas; wetlands (we've spent the last year fighting bad wetland bills), timber, water and air quality, land use policies, growth issues, California Environmental Quality Act and others.

In this state, that has the sixth largest economy in the world and is larger than many countries, we have a legislature that is being influenced by innumerable agriculture, business, timber and construction (and other) lobbyists while being informed by only a handful of environmental lobbyists, the Sierra Club, Defenders of Wildlife, and the Planning and Conservation League (PCL). There are not enough good guys to do the job and none of them represent all our wide-ranging Audubon environmental concerns.

This year the Bay Area Audubon chapter had several critical battles in the legislature over wetlands. A host of wetland bills were introduced and the agriculture and Chamber of Commerce and Building Trades lobbyists all sought to add seriously detrimental amendments to what could have been good bills. Even with the help of the PCL lobbyists we had quite a time of it. We were asked to come to Sacramento to testify on one day's notice, to fax material constantly on two-hour notice, etc. Sacramento works on its own time line and if you're not there, you've lost. Well, we won a few, but we also lost a few of these issues and we simply can't afford to lose. While PCL and our own Western Regional Office provided great help, both had other priorities that they could not ignore, and some things just simply slipped by. And so we lost. We learned, all too well, that we need help in Sacramento.

We need a lobbyist in Sacramento who works only on Audubon issues. I am a firm believer in our Western Regional Office (of National Audubon). They do great work and

they're essential, but they must cover four states...and they don't have time to act...on all our diverse environmental problems. (And their agenda is set by National Audubon, which may not have the same priorities as California Audubon chapters.)

Arthur's letter goes on to propose development of a budget and cost-sharing arrangement which would make the California Audubon Representative a reality. Future issues of *The GULL* will bring you details.



NATIONAL CONVENTION

The Annual Convention of National Audubon Society will be at Estes Park, Colorado July 21-27, 1991 with the theme for this year—"Audubon in the Americas". Members of the Cree Indian Nation in Canada will tell their story about hydropower development in James Bay. Ted Turner, founder of Turner Broadcasting has been invited. Audubon chapters in North, Central and South America will be asked to assist with the program and to bring exhibits.

Colorado chapters will be arranging tours, field trips and a memorable art show. Watch here for further information. Tom White reported that last year's meeting was truly memorable.

MUSEUM DIRECTIONS

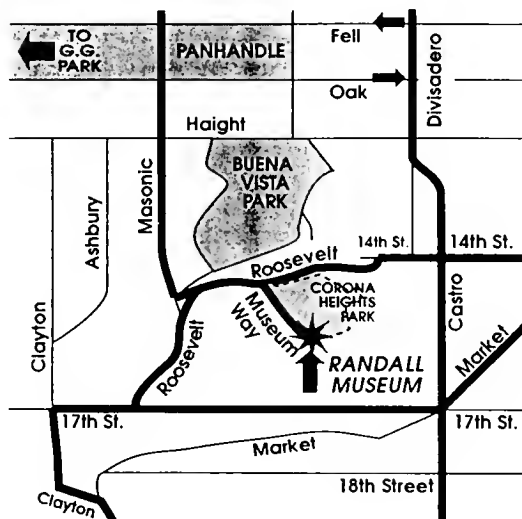
From the east: go west on 14th St. across Market, up the hill until 14th St. veers left and becomes Roosevelt Way. Continue one quarter mile, Museum Way is on the left.

From the East Bay: exit the freeway at Fell and turn left at Masonic, then same as for the north.

From the north: go south on Masonic, across the Panhandle, up and over the hill where Masonic merges with Roosevelt Way. One block ahead on the right is Museum Way.

From west and south: take Portola to Upper Market, head downhill, turn

left at the signal at Clayton St. Go uphill on Clayton, turn right at the second signal (17th St.) then make the first left onto Roosevelt Way. Continue a quarter mile. Museum Way is on the right.



GIFTS and BEQUESTS

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FOR RARE BIRD ALERT

Tom Condit

The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor of or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley, CA 94702. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in *The Gull* as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.



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GRAY WHALE TRIP

Biological Journeys announces two opportunities to visit the west coast of Baja, California aboard *The Searcher*—a nine day, eight night natural history cruise from San Diego (Feb. 2–10 and Feb. 10–18). It advertises daily opportunities for discussions, lectures, slide shows and nature walks all led by the trip naturalist. Also time to beachcomb, explore tide pools, bird watch, study whales, take pictures and make sound recordings, as well as relax and reflect. The cost is \$2,295 and for each GGAS member who participates BJ contributes \$230 to our chapter.

SFBBO TOURS

The 1991 tours have been announced by the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory. The tours are available to the public at the prices listed. SFBBO members are given a discount of \$15. Please call SFBBO at (408) 946-6448 to reserve a place or for more information.

Thrasher Crasher	Mar 15–18	\$ 65
East Texas & the Valley	Apr 16–25	\$415
Michigan	Jun 22–30	\$765
Arizona	Aug 3–11	\$185

**SANTA CLARA VALLEY
& LOMAS BARBUDAL**

The SCVAS's *The Avocet* announced a tour to Costa Rica Mar. 30–Apr. 14, with a limit of ten participants, and with the proceeds as a contribution to the Lomas Barbudal Biological Reserve through the Friends of Lomas Barbudal. The leaders will be Rafael Campos, a Costa Rican guide who prepared the bird list for Lomas, and Grant and Karen Hoyt of SCVAS. Grant is chapter president.

The tour includes all the major ecosystems of Costa Rica. The itinerary includes the following national parks and reserves: Braulio Carrillo, Tortuguero, Manuel Antonio, Carara, Monteverde, Palo Verde, Lomas Barbudal, Volcan Poas and La Selva. For detailed itinerary and reservations call the SCVAS office (415-329-1811) or Gail Cheeseman in Saratoga (1-408-741-5330). The cost for Audubon members is \$1905, not including airfare.

Lomas Barbudal is a tropical dry forest, recently made a preserve through the efforts of Dr. Gordon Frankie of UC Berkeley, and the Friends of Lomas Barbudal. The Costa Rican parks dept. does not put any money into the Reserve to maintain it. Poachers and arsonists are threats to the forest and its wildlife, and there is a continual struggle to protect it. If you are considering a Costa Rican trip, this is a good one.

BAY TIDINGS

Last January *The GULL* cited *BAY TIDINGS*, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's quarterly newsletter. This month we must announce it's discontinuance, a casualty of the 1990–91 budget constraints. "Discretionary public information items have been targeted" because of belt-tightening. We regret the loss of this information service.

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

Audubon Canyon Ranch (415) 868-9244
Shoreline Hwy., Stinson Beach, CA 94970
Wildlife Sanctuaries & Centers for Nature Education
under joint sponsorship of Golden Gate, Madrone, Marin
and Sequoia Audubon Societies
Gary Holloway, President

Dan's column was lost in the mail. Look for it in the next issue of *The GULL*.

TAPES AND RAILS

Early December often brings the highest tides of the year and consequently it is prime time for looking for reclusive Black Rails. These wee birds, not wanting to get their feet, and more, wet are driven from beneath the pickleweed and their other usual murky marsh haunts in search of higher dry ground as the tide advances. In recent years it has been noted that Great Egrets are cognizant of this and eagerly stalk the rails—many times the watch is a tally of the number of Black Rails eaten. This year the usual crowd gathered at Palo Alto Baylands where more than one tape recorder was in use trying to call in the rails. Without wandering into the philosophical quagmire surrounding the use of tapes, there are a couple of points to be considered: 1. during the non-breeding season tapes are of questionable value in calling rails; 2. when birds are in a stressful situation where every step may put their lives in jeopardy, birding ethics as well as common sense would preclude the use of tapes. One hopes that the object of all this activity is to see the birds and not to condemn them; if tapes form a danger to the rails, and it would seem they might, an extra trip or two, or even three, to the levees seems small price to pay. The clincher, however, has nothing to do with ethics, effectiveness or any of the mushier issues: Black Rails are a threatened species in

California and the use of tapes in this situation is harrassment and therefore illegal.

—ANN DEWART

ANOTHER CHANCE

Our midwinter seed sale will take place the last weekend in January and it will feature all of the same fine seed mixes as in the past, most of the same feeders, including the popular thistle feeder and a highly regarded window mounted hummingbird feeder. We will also have the sectional garden pole for use with the Droll Yankee seed feeder.

To avoid disappointment we urge you to order and prepay to guarantee the type and quantity of seed you require. We will have extra quantities available, but NOT IN THE 50-POUND SIZE.

And for your convenience we are including a Friday afternoon pick-up date for those whose Saturdays are too hectic—this only applies to Berkeley pick-ups, however.

A new San Francisco location for pick-up has been found near the Sunset Avenue Reservoir on 28th Avenue. We hope this will prove convenient for our San Francisco folks.

ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS

Please order by January 16 AT THE LATEST, making your check payable to GGAS. Confirmation will be sent one week prior to the sale.

Berkeley pick-up, Friday, January 25 between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. and Saturday, January 26 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. at our GGAS office, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite G. Parking lot is on the north side of the building.

San Francisco pick-up will be on Saturday only, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. You will be notified as to exact location.

GGAS BIRD SEED AND FEEDER SALE

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SEED		QUANTITY	AMOUNT
GGAS' OWN PREMIUM MIX	20 lbs.	\$ 9.50	
	50 lbs.	\$19.00	
VOLKMAN WILD BIRD SEED	20 lbs.	\$ 9.00	
	50 lbs.	\$17.00	
BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED	25 lbs.	\$15.00	
	50 lbs.	\$25.00	
NIGER (THISTLE SEED)		5lbs. \$ 10.00	

FEEDERS

DROLL YANKEE 16"	\$27.00		
THISTLE FEEDER	\$10.00		
HUMMINGBIRD	\$12.00		
SUET CAGE	\$ 4.50		
FEEDER POLE (sectional)	\$14.50		

SUB-TOTAL

ADD TAX (7¼%)

TOTAL

CONTRIBUTION TO GGAS

TOTAL

Be sure to include
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GGAS' OWN PREMIUM MIX: Top quality specially blended for us to meet the needs of Bay Area birds. It contains only red and white millet and black oil sunflower seed. No waste seed. The presence of black oil sunflower seed attracts large numbers of desirable birds.

WESTERN WILD BIRD SEED: Mixed and packaged by Volkman, this mix is composed of only red and white millet—no sunflower seeds (no squirrels). It contains no low-cost fillers the birds will flick aside.

BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED: It is high in oil content and nutritive value and appeals to chickadees and nuthatches, titmice, jays, finches and many other species. This is the best all-around seed for attracting the largest number of desirable birds.

NIGER (THISTLE SEED): Imported from India, this seed is 98% pure. It is a tiny seed, rich in oil, and is unappealing to larger birds and squirrels. It will not sprout in your yard. Needs a thistle feeder.



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Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to
join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership
renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$10 per year; single issues
\$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate
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The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917,
and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month, and July 15th for September issue.